

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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PM-03 DODE-00 /050 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5017

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 1976

LIMDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

MAPUTO ALSO FOR AMB YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TZ, ZA, UK, RH

SUBJECT: TANGOV CONCERN OVER SMITH WARNING TO ZAMBIA

1. SUMMARY: TANGOV EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER SMITH'S THREAT AGAINST GUERRILLA FIGHTERS IN ZAMBIA AND BRITISH ROLE IN CONVEYING THREAT. HOWEVER, IT IS "VERY HAPPY" WITH PRESENT US POSITION ON ZIMBABWE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH IT CONSTRUES AS "CLOSE AND STRONG SUPPORT WITHOUT DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN CONSTITUTIONAL NEGOTIATIONS".  
END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY PRINCIPAL SECRETARY NYAKYI CALLED ME TO HIS  
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OFFICE LATE MAY 16 TO EXPRESS TANGOV'S CONCERN OVER SMITH'S "THREAT" TO ZAMBIA RE GUERRILLA FIGHTERS BASED THERE. NYAKYI SAID THAT, "OF COURSE", THERE ARE GUERRILLAS OPERATING OUT OF ZAMBIA. THEY ARE PART OF THE MILITARY FRONT IN THE ZIMBABWE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, THE NECESSITY OF WHICH ALMOST ALL OF THE WORLD HAD RECOGNIZED. FRONT LINE STATES HAVE ALWAYS SUPPORTED FIGHTERS AND ALWAYS WILL. TANZANIA ALSO HAD GUERRILLAS ON ITS SOIL. SO,

SMITH'S THREAT IS NOT SOMETHING TANZANIA CAN IGNORE EITHER.

3. WHAT MOST BOTHERED TANGOV HOWEVER, SAID NYAKYI, WAS BRITISH ROLE IN CONVEYING SMITH'S MESSAGE. TANGOV HAD COME TO BELIEVE BRITISH WERE ALLIES AGAINST SMITH; NOW IT WONDERED JUST WHAT BRITISH THOUGHT THEY WERE DOING. HE HAD CALLED IN BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER EARLIER IN DAY TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN AND TO ASK "IN WHAT CAPACITY UK HAD CONVEYED THREAT". UK HIGH COMMISSIONER HAD SAID THAT HE WAS "UNINSTRUCTED" ON SUBJECT BUT BELIEVED BRITISH WERE MERELY ACTING AS MESSENGERS. NYAKYI FOUND THIS ANSWER LESS THAN SATISFACTORY. HE KNEW US WAS NOT INVOLVED IN MATTER BUT WANTED TO LET US KNOW WHAT HAD GONE ON. SMITH'S THREATS WERE DEFINITELY NOT HELPFUL TO EFFORTS AT NEGOTIATED SOLUTION, NYAKYI SAID; HE IMPLIED THAT TANGOV WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING US COULD DO TO GET SMITH TO STOP THEM, AND, INCIDENTALLY, "TO DISCOURAGE THE BRITISH FROM FALLING IN WITH SMITH'S GAME".

4. IN COURSE GENERAL DISCUSSION CURRENT ZIMBABWE NEGOTIATING EFFORT, NYAKYI VOLUNTEERED THAT TANGOV WAS "VERY HAPPY" WITH PRESENT US POSITION WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS ONE OF CLOSE AND STRONG SUPPORT WITHOUT DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN CONSTITUTIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. "IT SEEMS WE HAVE BECOME REAL ALLIES AT LAST," HE SAID. I MENTIONED PROBLEMS I HAD HAD A FEW DAYS EARLIER TRYING TO CONVINCE ROBERT MUGABE OF OUR BONA FIDES IN CURRENT ZIMBABWE EFFORT (DAR ES SALAAM 1949), AND ASKED NYAKYI IF HE HAD ANY SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH NATIONALISTS. HE REPLIED, "DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THEM. IF YOU CAN FIX UP A DECENT SETTLEMENT, WE'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY COME ALONG."

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5. COMMENT: NYAKYI IS A CAUTIOUS PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT, NOT GIVEN TO INDEPENDENT THOUGHTS OR TO PHRASES LIKE "REAL ALLIES" AND "WE'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY COME ALONG." HIS FRIENDLY AND CONFIDING APPROACH WAS PROBABLY DESIGNED IN PART TO ENCOURAGE US TO DO WHAT IT CAN (A) TO COUNTER SMITH'S THREAT (WHICH IS OF A KIND TO STRIKE REAL FEAR IN THE FRONT LINE STATES) AND (B) TO KEEP BRITISH FROM HELPING SMITH IN ANY WAY. HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO A PRETTY SAFE BET THAT NYAKYI'S REMARKS REPRESENT REAL TANGOV (I.E., NYERERE) SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT US POSITION ON ZIMBABWE. SPAIN

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## Message Attributes

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